



Significant progress in research and development has been achieved by Physics Division personnel during the past two years. This Progress Report recounts the work of the Division during this creative and productive period as we supported Laboratory missions and goals in the areas of both basic and applied science.

The mission of the Physics Division is to further our understanding of the physical world, to generate new technology in experimental physics, and to establish a physics foundation for current and future Los Alamos programs. The work described and the publications cited in this report demonstrate the degree to which we have been able to implement this mission. The five main areas of experimental research and development in which Physics Division serves the needs of Los Alamos National Laboratory and the nation are (1) biological physics, (2) hydrodynamic physics, (3) neutron science and technology, (4) basic and applied plasma physics, and (5) subatomic physics.

This report includes Division goals, organizational structure and group summaries, selected research highlight articles, project descriptions, staffing and funding levels for FY95–FY97, and a list of publications and presentations by Physics Division authors. The research capabilities reflected here are based on the very broad array of talents and interests of the more than 300 physicists, engineers, and technicians who contribute to this enterprise. From our senior scientists and technicians, to our experienced support staff, to our newest staff, postdocs, and students, this corps of talented individuals is our most important resource. Their dedication to excellence, their creativity and ingenuity, and their relentless pursuit of scientific understanding are the fundamental drivers of our Division's success.

Additionally, they are empowered with a critical set of facilities that Physics Division operates and/or uses. The latter include the proton and neutron capabilities of the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE) accelerator facility, the Pegasus II and Atlas pulsed-power facilities, the Trident laser complex, and several large plasma-generation devices. We also perform extensive experimental work at off-site facilities, including the underground containment facilities in Nevada, large beamline and detector facilities at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL) and Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), and gamma-ray and x-ray beamlines also at BNL. Our work is not confined to domestic facilities. We are involved with experiments in Russia and states of the Former Soviet Union, at the European Laboratory for Nuclear and Particle Physics (CERN) in Switzerland, at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in the U.K., with the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JEARI), and with a host of other foreign collaborations. Finally, new projects are continuously being created in the Division. For example, we are evaluating the research impacts of an improved laser facility and a proton-radiography facility. We are dedicated to accomplishing all of this in a manner that protects the health and safety of our employees, the public, and the environment.

As you browse through this report, I hope that you will gain an understanding of who we are and what we do and that you will share my excitement and enthusiasm for the research it contains. If I can provide assistance or answer questions, please contact me.

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